

PATENT  
450117-03695

B  
Blw

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

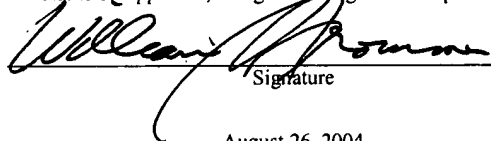
Applicants : William FORD et al. Notice of Allowance  
Dated: 06/29/2004  
Serial No. : 09/988,978 Confirmation No. 9531  
Title of Invention : **PROCESS FOR IMMOBILIZATION OF NUCLEIC  
ACID MOLECULES ON A SUBSTRATE**  
Filed : November 19, 2001  
Examiner: : Jeffrey Siew  
Group Art Unit : 1642

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope  
addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.  
Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 26, 2004

William S. Frommer, Reg. No. 25,506

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

August 26, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which  
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed June 29, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's  
Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are

allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By   
William S. Frommer  
Reg. No. 25,506  
(212) 588-0800